



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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**Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
Youth Excellence Award**

**PURPOSE:**

The objective of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, through the Youth Excellence Award, is to recognize and honor a young adult who has made great strides in his or her life from past involvement with the juvenile justice system. This person will have overcome great obstacles and is currently making positive contributions to society. *This award was modeled on the Coalition of Juvenile Justice Spirit of Youth Award.*

**CRITERIA:**

The award recipient must be:

- Under the age of 28 years
- Not a member of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth or the Coalition for Juvenile Justice
- A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile
- Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of “at-risk” youth

**NOMINATIONS:**

All members of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will actively promote the Youth Excellence Award by distributing nomination forms to their local juvenile justice agencies and community organizations. They will also want to contact their local media sources to publicize the award and to detail the nomination process.

The Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will appoint one staff person as the direct liaison for this program. All nominations will be sent to this person and the staff person will be responsible for distributing the nomination forms to the Youth Excellence Award selection committee. The staff person, along with the Executive Director, will be responsible for publicizing the award to local and state press, through Regional Councils, newsletter articles, including *The Advocate*, and on the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Web Site.

All nominations will be submitted using a standard application form and sent to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth office in Nashville. Commission staff members will maintain strict levels of confidentiality when handling the application forms, as the forms may contain sensitive information about nominees.

The Youth Excellence Award selection committee will review and discuss all nominations, and identify three top candidates ranked in order of preference. The selection committee will then present the top three names and their nomination forms to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for a final decision and approval.

**PRESENTATION:**

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will invite the recipient to receive the award, generally at Children's Advocacy Day each year.

The award recipient will be asked to sign a release form granting the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth permission to use the descriptive material and photos without compensation for the sole purpose of promoting recognition for the recipient, the award and the Commission.

The recipient will be announced to the news media and will receive the following from the Commission:

- A plaque
- An entry on the plaque in the Commission's Nashville office that lists Youth Excellence Award recipients for each year
- Recognition in TCCY Annual Report
- Invitation to attend/present at conferences in Tennessee to talk about his/her success in spite of difficulties, as a good example for youth, with TCCY paying for travel and other expenses related to the conferences
- Inclusion of story and a picture in Coalition for Juvenile Justice or Southern Coalition publications

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:**

Deadline for 2009 nominations is February 20, 2009.

**SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

The Chair of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth shall appoint a selection committee and a chair for the selection committee. The selection committee shall consist of all youth members of the Commission who are able and willing to serve. The total number of members on the selection committee shall not exceed seven.

# Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Youth Excellence Award

## NOMINATION FORM

This award recognizes and celebrates a young adult, who by overcoming personal obstacles and serving his or her community exemplifies the importance of the rehabilitative focus of the juvenile justice system, as well as the power of personal achievement.

To be eligible, the nominee must satisfy each of the criteria listed below:

- ☐ Under the age of 28 years
- ☐ Not a member of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth or the Coalition for Juvenile Justice
- ☐ A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile
- ☐ Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of "at-risk" youth

Nominee:

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions about the nominee in detail using separate sheets of paper and mail to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Andrew Johnson Tower, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0800. Please limit all supporting material to four pages.

1. How has the nominee transformed his or her life in a positive way?
2. What were some obstacles this person overcame?
3. What contributions has this person made in his or her community?
4. Why are you recommending this person for the *Youth Excellence Award*?

Individual who forwarded this nomination:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: February 20, 2009**

PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTING THE RECIPIENT OF THE  
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
YOUTH EXCELLENCE AWARD

*Please read before you begin the scoring process,  
keeping these principles in mind.*

The following principles form a conceptual framework to consider while reviewing the nomination forms:

**Common Agenda:** There must be no political or philosophical agenda on the part of the nominator and/or nominee that would contradict or undermine the positions held by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's public positions or stated goals.

**Nominee's Achievements:** The focus of the award is to honor a person's ability to overcome obstacles and challenges and make positive strides in his or her life, not to gain public attention for an organization or program.

**Credibility:** The application and all supporting materials must provide evidence that the nominee has in fact accomplished the successes, etc., cited by the nominator.

**Non-Bias:** No bias, positive or negative, should be used based on the nominee's place of residence nor the location or extent of the nominee's involvement with the juvenile justice system, nor other factors related to gender, race/ethnicity, political or social orientation, except as related to the above stated principals.

**Conflict of Interest:** No member of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth who may have a close relationship or personal knowledge of the nominee or nominator will be able to participate in scoring the application.

**Confidentiality:** All applications, including the names of nominees, nominators and other details are to be held in the strictest confidence. All committee discussions regarding the nominations will also be completely confidential.

**2009 Youth Excellence Award Score Sheet**

**Nominee's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preliminary Application Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Instructions: Please rate each of the following criteria on a scale of 1-25, with 1 being the least and 25 being the best possible rating. The highest possible score is 100. It will be the task of the selection committee to identify, collectively, the top three nominees and to rank them in order of preference for consideration by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.*

Please note that all nominees must have met the basic criteria to be considered:

- ✓ Under the age of 28 years
- ✓ Not a member of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth or the Coalition for Juvenile Justice
- ✓ A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile
- ✓ Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in improving the lives of “at-risk” youth

**1. The application demonstrates substantial evidence that the nominee has transformed his or her life in a positive way.**

<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>
poor					excellent

Brief explanation /rationale for the score (for discussion purposes)

**2. The application shows how the nominee has overcome obstacles or “beat the odds.”**

<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>
poor					excellent

Brief explanation /rationale for the score (for discussion purposes)

**3. The contributions that the nominee has made to his/her community are significant in scope and depth.**

<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>
poor					excellent

Brief explanation /rationale for the score (for discussion purposes)

**4. Overall, the nominator has provided a convincing justification for the applicant to receive the “name” Youth Award.**

<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>
poor					excellent

Brief explanation /rationale for the score (for discussion purposes)